



THE GOLD AND SILVER SPOTTER



Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2012

National Weather Service, Reno, NV

Our Mission:

"The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community."

New Weather Spotter Webpage!

The National Weather Service Reno Spotter webpage has been completely redesigned! The new page includes links to reporting guidelines along with pictures, videos, and other guide charts to help you with your weather spotting. In addition, you will now also be able to find upcoming spotter talks as well as some online trainings. Newsletters from the past 2 years will also be available.

The new webpage can be found here:

[Spotter Webpage](#)

Hope that you find this upgrade helpful!



Inside this issue:

Below Normal Snow-pack Continues	2
US Drought Monitor	2
Little Rain and Snow Could Mean Increased Fire Danger	3
Wildland Fire Potential Outlook	3
A Friendly Reminder	4
Weather In the News	4
Weather Humor Corner	4

Solar Eclipse on May 20

A rare solar eclipse will be visible from Eastern California and Western Nevada on Sunday, May 20 from approximately 4 pm to 7 pm PDT. This will be an annular eclipse, which means that there will still be a thin ring of the sun still visible on the outer disk of the eclipse. For more details about this eclipse:

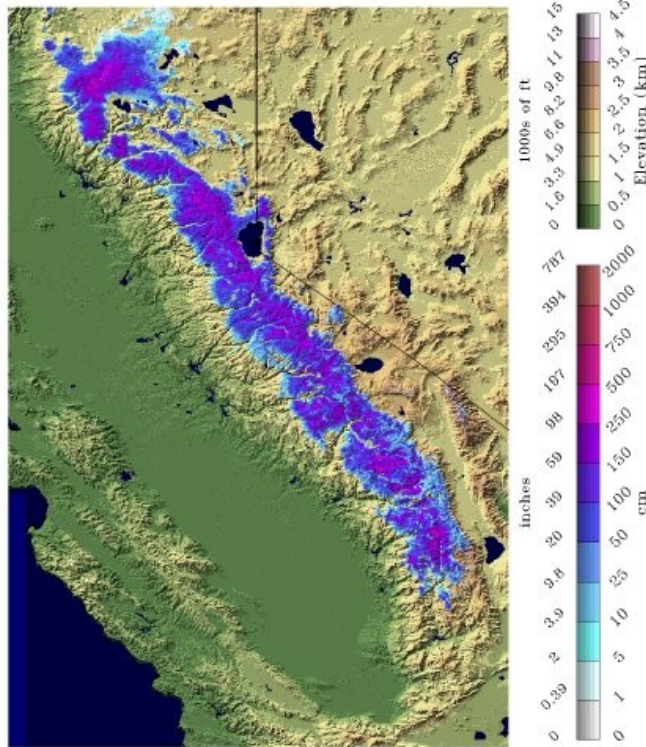
[NASA Eclipse Information](#)



Annular Solar Eclipse photo courtesy of the Science Photo Library.

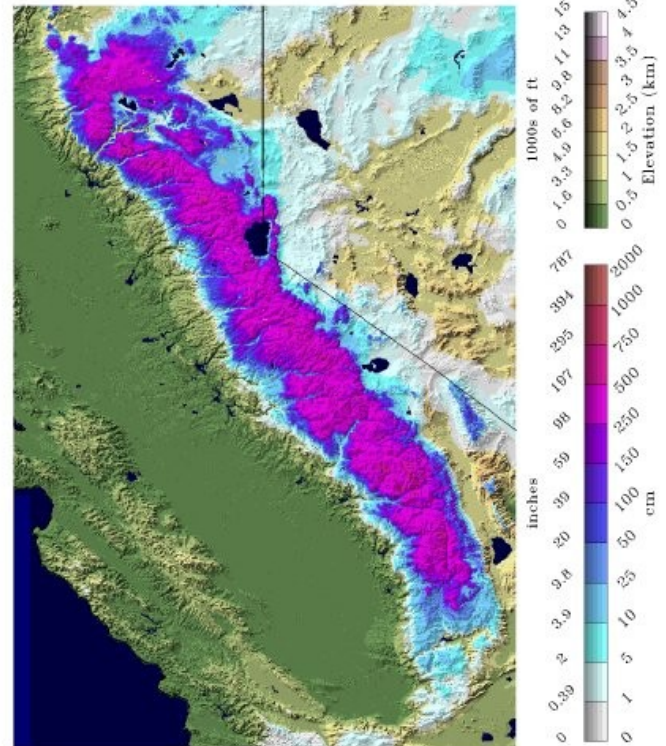
Below Normal Snowpack Continues

Snow Depth
2012-04-09 06



Sierra Snow Depth as of April 9, 2012

Snow Depth
2011-04-09 06



Sierra Snow Depth as of April 9, 2011

NOHRSC National Snow 2011-Analysis 2012

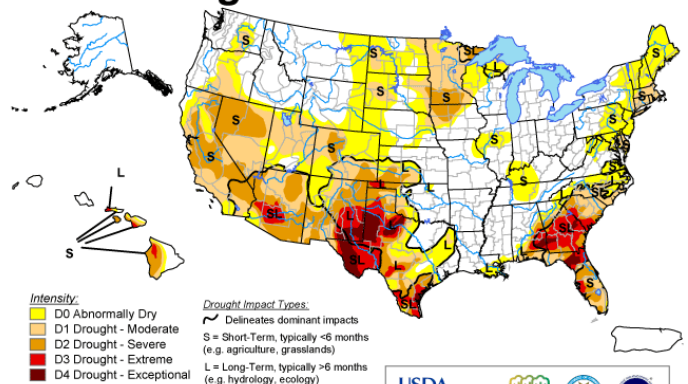
NOHRSC National Snow 2010-Analysis 2011

Despite a relatively wet March, it was just too little too late and the snowpack remains well below normal. Most basins around the region are only one-third to one-half of normal with no real relief in sight as we get later into the spring. The one saving grace is the well above normal snowpack from last year providing plenty of water in available storage. However, those areas without upstream water storage can expect low flows along rivers, streams, and creeks. With such meager amounts of snow, the potential for flooding this spring due to the melting of snow is very low. The lack of water has also put the region back into a drought, mainly in the Moderate to Severe Categories, or ranked 1 and 2 out on a scale from 0 to 4 (See graphic to the right). For more details on the Water Outlook please see:

[Hydrologic Outlook](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 3, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

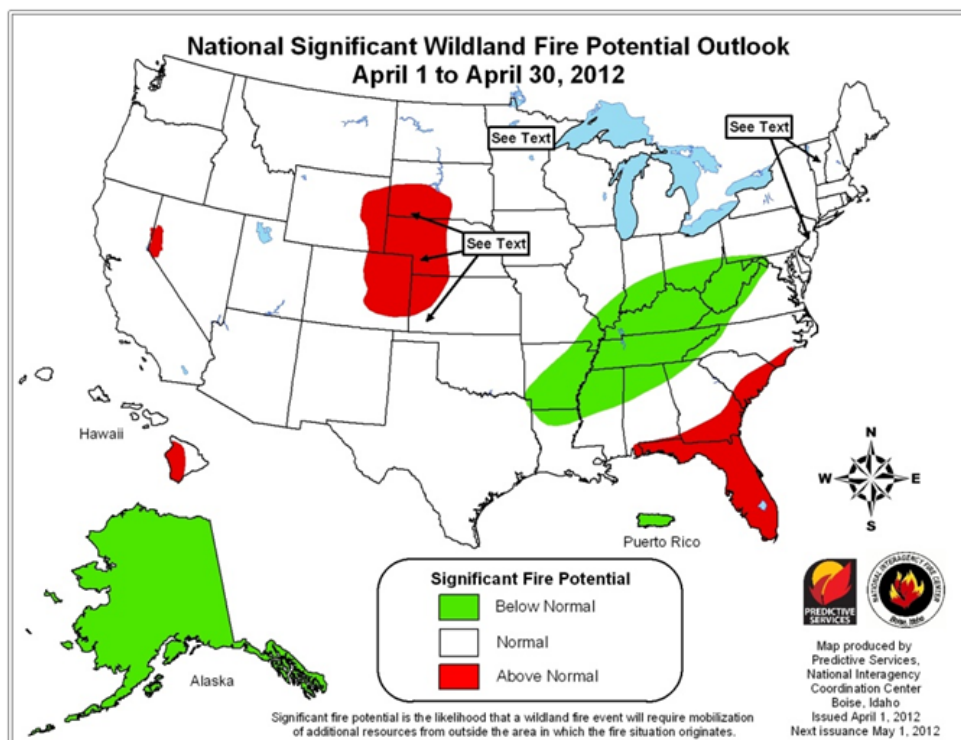
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, April 5, 2012
Author: Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

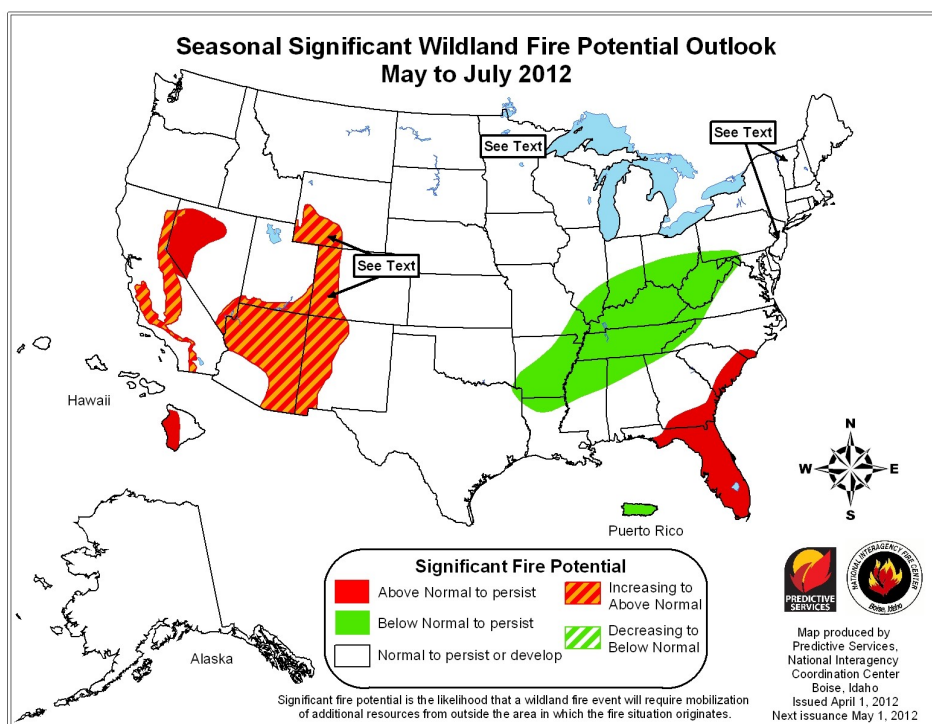
Little Rain and Snow Could Mean Increased Fire Danger

Very dry conditions and an abundance of fuels from last year's exceptional growth will contribute to this potentially being a year with heightened fire danger. The outlook from Predictive Services at the National Interagency Coordination Center is shown below.



The graphic to the left is showing the wildfire potential outlook for the month of April. Significant fire activity is typically zero in April and near normal conditions are expected for most of the state. However, the Western Great Basin has been quite dry for the last few months and if there are fire ignitions in April, fire spread is possible in western Nevada if windy conditions develop after a dry period.

The graphic to the right is showing the wildfire potential for May, June, and July. Areas of above normal fire activity are forecast for this period, as drought conditions spread and generally dry weather persists, especially in western Nevada. However, fire activity may occur in many areas of the state if there are ignitions during a period of strong winds.





National Weather Service, Reno, NV

2350 Raggio Parkway
Reno, NV 89512

Phone: 775-673-8100

Fax: 775-673-8110

E-mail: Dawn.Fishler@noaa.gov

A Friendly Reminder...

The 1-800 Spotter Hotline is an unlisted number reserved for our weather spotters. We would appreciate you keeping this number private so that the line can remain free for your important phone calls. If you have a friend or family member who wishes to contact us, please give them our 775-673-8100 phone line and we would be happy to help. Thank you!

Working Together to Save Lives

Check us out on the web!

Facebook

National Weather Service

[Online School For Weather](#)

Weather In the News

[Warmest March](#)

[Texas Tornadoes](#)

[Tornado Warning System Rose to the Challenge](#)

[Warm Weather Helps Corn Seeding](#)

[Anchorage, AK Sets Snowfall Record](#)

[Midwest Severe Outbreak](#)



Weather Humor Corner

